



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 22, 2021

“As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Ephesians 5:31-33)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Perhaps the greatest call of Gospel life formation is the willingness of the Christian to sustain the people with whom they live and work in the corporate living of the Gospel. This means encouraging people to learn to live together, to forgive together, to support one another together. Recently a 75-year-old woman said that her commitment to the Lord and the Gospel life is to try and try again to be present with people as an attentive listener, to give words of affirmation,

not to be afraid to touch people as a supportive presence to them, and to be eager to lend a helping hand when needed. If we could all do this we would be closer to the Reign of God.

- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service 9:30 A.M. Joe Rudy**
- **Scripture Readings**
Isaiah 29:11-29
Ephesians 5:22-33
Mark 7:1-13
- **Happening Around St. James**
Children's Sunday School is recessed til September 12th
Adult Forum continues this week. We will continue Joining Jesus on His mission. All are welcome.
- **Rally Day is scheduled for September 12th.** We will be kicking off Sunday School. There will be a new adult forum based on the book entitled “Waiting.” Timely for us, don’t you think? We will celebrate with Anna Marie Turner as she will be confirmed. Sign up your children and invite neighbors and friends. We have a good thing going. We ask God’s blessings on this discipleship part of our ministry.
- **Parsonage Clean Up** Thanks to all who came out last Saturday cleaning up and trimming around the property. Within 3 hours we put an amazing improvement around the house. There was a lot of overgrown that has now been pruned back. It looks good.
- **Thank You! Thank You!** Terri and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful 45th anniversary celebration on July 18th. From the wonderful sign, to the reception after church, to the special gift card gifts, it brought tears to our eyes and warmth in our hearts. I give thanks for God bringing our lives together and for the ministry we have

shared for almost the past year and a half. God has blessed our lives beyond measure. We will forever be grateful.

- **Grief Share . . .** has returned. We will be offering a 13 week beginning August 11 through November 3rd. This is a wonderful program of support for those who have lost a loved one and are struggling through the grief process. Time will be 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.
- **Praise God! Pew Bibles are ready to be ordered.** You the people of God here at St James have done it again . . . of course, with God's help. We were hoping to receive \$550 for the purchase of Bibles to place in the pews of our sanctuary, and guess what we have received? \$550. Is that a God thing or what? We thank God and you for making this extended ministry possible. Though you we all are blessed beyond measure.
- **September is St James turn to take responsibility for filling the Community Blessing Box.** The Blessing Box is located at the Greenfield Police Dept. and is sponsored by different churches each month. We are collecting shelf stable products (like cocktail franks, canned meats, cracker filled with cheese or peanut butter. Cereal bars, and Raman noodles. There will be a more detailed list in the August newsletter. Ahead of time let me express personal appreciation for your generosity and support.
- **Bible Studies**
 - **Women's Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
 - **Men's Bible Study Gathers . . .**at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
 - **Additional Bible Study Opportunity.** . . included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Continue to Hold our Church in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.
- **St James Website is Up and Running.** Hope you have been checking it out regularly. We are proud of our efforts. We are keeping it current and fresh and there will be links added for the bulletin, newsletter and this weekend update.
- **Greetings from the HMD Council** for August 2021. Include in your prayers . . . Please:
 - Continue to pray for all NALC churches that are in the call process and especially the HMD's churches of Antioch, Living Faith and St. James who are awaiting pastoral candidates. Pray that these congregations have patience as they wait for the Holy Spirit to send them the right match for their ministries.
 - Pray for all of the students and teachers that are returning to school. Ask for blessings for those who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Maker and Redeemer and bless those who teach, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above and that they do their work with patience and love that reflects God's mercy that endures forever.
 - Pray for blessings for Pastor Jarrod Ball who will be installed this month at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale, Indiana.
 - Pray for blessings for the HMD congregation and Pastor Gaptor of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Thiele Road in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 - Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black.

I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug